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C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 002495

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [KDEM](#) [IZ](#)

SUBJECT: IECI TO REGISTER NEW VOTERS IN AUGUST

Classified By: A/PolCouns Henry S. Ensher for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

1. (C) Summary. Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq (IECI) officials told Poloff June 12 they had decided that voter registration would be held throughout all of Iraq beginning August 1, and last four weeks. During this period, persons who did not appear in voter lists on January 30 polling day and persons who turned 18 after December 31, 2004 will have the opportunity to register at Voter Registration Centers. Since the target audience will not receive initial prodding from the Food Distribution System, IECI is planning for a vigorous, widespread public information campaign. A general timeline on voter registration is in paragraph 5. End Summary.

2. (C) IECI Board of Commissioners decided June 11 that voter registration would be held throughout all of Iraq beginning August 1, lasting for a period of four weeks. Voter registration will be conducted primarily through the approximately 550 IECI District Electoral Offices (DEO) that will serve as Voter Registration Centers (VRC). Unlike voter registration in 2004 that preceded the January 30, 2005 elections, there will be no pre-printed forms distributed to potential voters through the Food Ration Centers. Information relating to new registrants and changes to existing records (i.e. change of address, deaths) will be captured on a single blank form available at the Voter Registration Centers.

3. (C) The target audience for the 2005 voter registration program is primarily those people presently not on the voter roll. Specifically, voter registration will target: those persons who did not find their name on the voting lists at polling centers on January 30 polling day; persons who failed to register during 2004; and persons who have since December 31, 2004, reached 18 years of age. The target audience will also include voters who participated in the January 30 election through the exceptional provision of same day registration -- as in Kirkuk where it is known that as many as 100,000 persons registered on polling day.

4. (C) IECI plans to conduct a vigorous public information campaign on voter registration that will commence no later than two weeks before the start of voter registration, and end two weeks after the conclusion of voter registration. Since voters will not receive initial prodding from the Food Distribution System, the public information campaign will be widespread and ubiquitous, and regionally specific. Special attention and resources will be placed on areas known to be politically sensitive, like Kirkuk.

5. (C) General timeline for the voter registration program:

#### JUNE

Week 1-2 Drafting and Approval of Registration Regulations

Week 1-3 Drafting and Approval of Security Plan

#### JULY

Week 1-2 Training of DEOs

Week 3-4 Training of GEOs

Week 1-4 Delivery of Registration Materials to VRCs

Week 3 Start Public Information Campaign

#### AUGUST

Week 1-4 VOTER REGISTRATION

#### SEPTEMBER

Week 1 EXHIBITION AND CHALLENGES

Week 2 End Public Information Campaign

6. (U) REO HILLAH, REO BASRAH, REO MOSUL, and REO KIRKUK, minimize considered.

Jeffrey